

By: Price

H.B. No. 2673

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the protection and care of individuals with  
3 intellectual and developmental disabilities.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 411.1144, Government  
6 Code, is amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 411.1144. ACCESS TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD  
8 INFORMATION: AGENCIES WITH EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS, OR VOLUNTEERS  
9 AT STATE SUPPORTED LIVING CENTERS.

10 SECTION 2. Sections 411.1144(a) and (d), Government Code,  
11 are amended to read as follows:

12 (a) The Department of State Health Services, ~~and~~ the  
13 Department of Aging and Disability Services, and the Health and  
14 Human Services Commission are entitled to obtain from the  
15 department criminal history record information maintained by the  
16 department that relates to a person:

- 17 (1) who is:
- 18 (A) an applicant for employment with the agency;
  - 19 (B) an employee of the agency;
  - 20 (C) a volunteer with the agency; ~~or~~
  - 21 (D) an applicant for a volunteer position with  
22 the agency;
  - 23 (E) an applicant for a contract with the agency;

24 or

1                    (F) a contractor of the agency; and

2                    (2) who would be placed in direct contact with a  
3 resident or client, as defined by Section 555.001, Health and  
4 Safety Code [~~of a state supported living center or the ICF-MR~~  
5 ~~component of the Rio Grande State Center~~].

6                    (d) Subject to Section 411.087, the Department of State  
7 Health Services, ~~and~~ the Department of Aging and Disability  
8 Services, and the Health and Human Services Commission are entitled  
9 to:

10                    (1) obtain through the Federal Bureau of Investigation  
11 criminal history record information maintained or indexed by that  
12 bureau that pertains to a person described by Subsection (a); and

13                    (2) obtain from any other criminal justice agency in  
14 this state criminal history record information maintained by that  
15 criminal justice agency that relates to a person described by  
16 Subsection (a).

17                    SECTION 3. The heading to Subchapter U, Chapter 531,  
18 Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

19                    SUBCHAPTER U. MORTALITY REVIEW FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WITH  
20                    INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

21                    SECTION 4. Subchapter U, Chapter 531, Government Code, is  
22 amended by adding Section 531.8501 to read as follows:

23                    Sec. 531.8501. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "contracted  
24 organization" means an entity that contracts with the Health and  
25 Human Services Commission for the provision of services as  
26 described by Section 531.851(c).

27                    SECTION 5. Sections 531.851(a), (c), (d), and (e),

1 Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

2 (a) The executive commissioner shall establish an  
3 independent mortality review system to review the death of a person  
4 with an intellectual or [a] developmental disability who, at the  
5 time of the person's death or at any time during the 24-hour period  
6 before the person's death:

7 (1) resided in or received services from:

8 (A) an intermediate care facility for persons  
9 with an intellectual or developmental disability (ICF/IID) [~~mental~~  
10 ~~retardation (ICF-MR)~~] operated or licensed by the Department of  
11 Aging and Disability Services or a community center; or

12 (B) the ICF/IID [~~ICF-MR~~] component of the Rio  
13 Grande State Center; or

14 (2) received services [~~residential assistance~~]  
15 through a Section 1915(c) waiver program for [~~servicing~~] individuals  
16 who are eligible for ICF/IID [~~ICF-MR~~] services [~~in a residence in~~  
17 ~~which residential assistance is provided to three or more persons~~  
18 ~~and in which the waiver program provider has a property interest~~].

19 (c) The executive commissioner shall contract with an  
20 institution of higher education or a health care organization or  
21 association with experience in conducting research-based mortality  
22 studies [~~a patient safety organization certified in accordance with~~  
23 ~~42 C.F.R. Part 3, as effective on January 19, 2009,~~] to conduct  
24 independent mortality reviews of persons with an intellectual or  
25 developmental disability [~~required by this subchapter~~]. The  
26 contract must require the contracted [~~patient safety~~] organization  
27 to form a [~~conduct an independent mortality~~] review [~~using a~~] team

1 consisting of:

2 (1) a physician with expertise regarding the medical  
3 treatment of individuals with intellectual or developmental  
4 disabilities [~~mental retardation~~];

5 (2) a registered nurse with expertise regarding the  
6 medical treatment of individuals with intellectual or  
7 developmental disabilities [~~mental retardation~~];

8 (3) a clinician or other professional with expertise  
9 in the delivery of services and supports for individuals with  
10 intellectual or developmental disabilities [~~mental retardation~~];  
11 and

12 (4) any other appropriate person as provided by the  
13 executive commissioner.

14 (d) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules regarding  
15 the manner in which the death of a person described by Subsection  
16 (a) must be reported to the contracted [~~patient safety~~]  
17 organization by a facility or waiver program provider described by  
18 that subsection.

19 (e) To ensure consistency across mortality review systems,  
20 a review under this section must collect information consistent  
21 with the information required to be collected by any other  
22 independent mortality review process established specifically for  
23 persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities [~~mental~~  
24 ~~retardation~~].

25 SECTION 6. Section 531.852, Government Code, is amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 Sec. 531.852. ACCESS TO INFORMATION. (a) A contracted

1 ~~[patient safety]~~ organization may request information and records  
2 regarding a deceased person as necessary to carry out the  
3 contracted ~~[patient safety]~~ organization's duties. Records and  
4 information that may be requested under this section include:

5 (1) medical, dental, and mental health care  
6 information; and

7 (2) information and records maintained by any state or  
8 local government agency, including:

9 (A) a birth certificate;

10 (B) law enforcement investigative data;

11 (C) medical examiner investigative data;

12 (D) juvenile court records;

13 (E) parole and probation information and  
14 records; and

15 (F) adult or child protective services  
16 information and records.

17 (b) On request of the contracted ~~[patient safety]~~  
18 organization, the custodian of the relevant information and records  
19 relating to a deceased person shall provide those records to the  
20 contracted ~~[patient safety]~~ organization at no charge.

21 SECTION 7. Section 531.853, Government Code, is amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 Sec. 531.853. MORTALITY REVIEW REPORT. Subject to Section  
24 531.854, a contracted ~~[The patient safety]~~ organization shall ~~[, to~~  
25 ~~the extent allowed by federal law,~~] submit:

26 (1) to the Department of Aging and Disability  
27 Services, the Department of Family and Protective Services, the

1 office of independent ombudsman for state supported living centers,  
2 and the commission's office of inspector general a report of the  
3 findings of the mortality review; and

4 (2) semiannually to the governor, the lieutenant  
5 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the  
6 standing committees of the senate and house of representatives with  
7 primary jurisdiction over the Department of Aging and Disability  
8 Services, the Department of Family and Protective Services, the  
9 office of independent ombudsman for state supported living centers,  
10 and the commission's office of inspector general a report that  
11 contains:

12 (A) aggregate information regarding the deaths  
13 for which the contracted [~~patient safety~~] organization performed an  
14 independent mortality review;

15 (B) trends in the causes of death identified by  
16 the contracted [~~patient safety~~] organization; and

17 (C) any suggestions for system-wide improvements  
18 to address conditions that contributed to deaths reviewed by the  
19 contracted [~~patient safety~~] organization.

20 SECTION 8. Section 531.854, Government Code, is amended by  
21 amending Subsections (a), (b), and (e) and adding Subsections (f)  
22 and (g) to read as follows:

23 (a) The commission may use or publish information under this  
24 subchapter only to advance statewide practices regarding the  
25 treatment and care of individuals with intellectual and  
26 developmental disabilities. A summary of the data in the  
27 contracted [~~patient safety~~] organization's reports or a

1 statistical compilation of data reports may be released by the  
2 commission for general publication if the summary or statistical  
3 compilation does not contain any information that would permit the  
4 identification of an individual or that is confidential or  
5 privileged under this subchapter or other state or federal law  
6 [~~patient safety work product~~].

7 (b) Information and records acquired by the contracted  
8 [~~patient safety~~] organization in the exercise of its duties under  
9 this subchapter are confidential and exempt from disclosure under  
10 the open records law, Chapter 552, and may be disclosed only as  
11 necessary to carry out the contracted [~~patient safety~~]  
12 organization's duties.

13 (e) Reports, information, statements, memoranda, and other  
14 information furnished under this subchapter to the contracted  
15 organization and any findings or conclusions resulting from a  
16 review by the contracted [~~patient safety~~] organization are  
17 privileged.

18 (f) A contracted organization's report of the findings of  
19 the independent mortality review conducted under this subchapter  
20 and any records developed by the contracted organization relating  
21 to the review:

- 22 (1) are confidential and privileged;  
23 (2) are not subject to discovery or subpoena; and  
24 (3) may not be introduced into evidence in any civil,  
25 criminal, or administrative proceeding.

26 (g) A member of the contracted organization's review team  
27 may not testify or be required to testify in a civil, criminal, or

1 administrative proceeding as to observations, factual findings, or  
2 conclusions that were made in conducting a review under this  
3 subchapter.

4 SECTION 9. Section 531.855, Government Code, is amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 Sec. 531.855. LIMITATION ON LIABILITY. A health care  
7 provider or other person is not civilly or criminally liable for  
8 furnishing information to the contracted [~~patient safety~~]  
9 organization or to the commission for use by the contracted  
10 [~~patient safety~~] organization in accordance with this subchapter  
11 unless the person acted in bad faith or knowingly provided false  
12 information to the contracted [~~patient safety~~] organization or the  
13 commission.

14 SECTION 10. Section 555.021, Health and Safety Code, is  
15 amended to read as follows:

16 Sec. 555.021. REQUIRED CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS FOR  
17 EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS, AND VOLUNTEERS [~~OF CENTERS~~]. (a) The  
18 department, [~~and~~] the Department of State Health Services, and the  
19 Health and Human Services Commission shall perform a state and  
20 federal criminal history background check on a person:

- 21 (1) who is:
- 22 (A) an applicant for employment with the agency;
  - 23 (B) an employee of the agency;
  - 24 (C) a volunteer with the agency; [~~or~~]
  - 25 (D) an applicant for a volunteer position with  
26 the agency;
  - 27 (E) an applicant for a contract with the agency;

1 or

2 (F) a contractor of the agency; and

3 (2) who would be placed in direct contact with a  
4 resident or client.

5 (b) The department, ~~and~~ the Department of State Health  
6 Services, and the Health and Human Services Commission shall  
7 require a person described by Subsection (a) to submit fingerprints  
8 in a form and of a quality acceptable to the Department of Public  
9 Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for use in  
10 conducting a criminal history background check.

11 (c) Each agency shall obtain electronic updates from the  
12 Department of Public Safety of arrests and convictions of a person:

13 (1) for whom the agency performs a background check  
14 under Subsection (a); and

15 (2) who remains an employee, contractor, or volunteer  
16 of the agency and continues to have direct contact with a resident  
17 or client.

18 SECTION 11. Section 252.134, Health and Safety Code, is  
19 repealed.

20 SECTION 12. Section 531.851, Government Code, as amended by  
21 this Act, does not apply to a contract entered into by the executive  
22 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission before  
23 June 1, 2013. A contract entered into before June 1, 2013, is  
24 governed by the law in effect on the date the contract was entered  
25 into, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

26 SECTION 13. This Act takes effect immediately if it  
27 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each

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1 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.  
2 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate  
3 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.